

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 27, 2005

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Bonta called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Present: Bonta, Chen, Hanna, Hollinger Jackson, and Wasko. Member Franz was absent. Staff: Beaver, Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the September 22, 2005 meeting were approved with changes as noted. M/S (Wasko/Hanna) and unanimous.

ACKNOWLEDGING LOCAL SPIRIT OF GIVING FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS – Hollinger Jackson stated that she had gathered all news articles through October 10th and forwarded the list to Wasko for drafting the letter. It was decided the letter should be sent for distribution during the second week of November before the Thanksgiving food drives. The letter could include a list of food drives where the community can contribute. Wasko will draft and Bonta will proof a letter to the editor for the local newspapers.

RECOMMENDATION OF SISTER CITY WORKGROUP RE: ESTABLISHING FREINDSHIP WITH ASUCHIO, EL SALVADOR – Councilmember Matarrese and members of his church have been traveling to Asuchio for a few years. Matarrese reports that Asuchio is a small village with very limited resources for its residents, many of whom are refugees from the earlier fighting in El Salvador. Member Chen stated that the Sister City Workgroup could have a bigger impact by helping smaller communities, not just a big city like Wuxi. He further stated the Sister City workgroup is currently stretched thin preparing for a Spring 2006 visit to China, and working on a trip to El Salvador at the same time would not be easy. Member Chen stated that it will probably take a long time for visitors from Asuchio to get the necessary paperwork. Members of St. Philip Neri have already raised enough funds to construct a building in Asuchio; they are in the process of organizing a fundraising event and will manage the logistics of bringing a delegation here when they are ready. M/S (Chen/Wasko) and unanimous for staff to draft a recommendation to the Council to send a letter welcoming Asuchio officials to Alameda whenever they are able to make the trip.

WORKGROUP ASSIGNMENTS AND CHAIRS – Member Hollinger Jackson stated she would be on the AAWG as long as meetings are not on Wed nights. Bonta asked if there is any interest in expanding or reducing the scope of the workgroup efforts and consensus was to reinstate the Alamedans Together Against Hate workgroup as a separate entity. Leadership/membership in the workgroups was confirmed as follows:

AAWG: Franz, Chair, Members Hanna and Hollinger Jackson.

ATAH: Hanna, Chair, Member Chen.

FSWG: Bonta, Co-chair, Wasko, Co-Chair, Member Hollinger Jackson.

SSWG: Chen, Co-chair, Franz Co-chair.

WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS -

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup – Member Hanna reported that more than 531 needs surveys were received and this provides enough sound data for analysis. He further stated that Liz Harris presented the Needs survey findings at their meeting, and was actively recruiting people to participate in Focus Groups. The Focus Group meeting will be November 3rd. Aroma Restaurant will provide

food, and various community donations have been received as incentives for participants. Hanna and members praised Harris' work on the project and thanked her for her time and expertise.

Alamedas Together Against Hate – Hanna stated he responded to a phone call asking about the workgroup, and that staff sent an outreach packet as follow-up to his conversation.

Family Services Workgroup – Vice President Wasko stated that the next Festival of Families will be May 13th, the Saturday before Mother's Day. The Workgroup will meet later in the week to discuss plans. Wasko is busy working on information regarding the state of childcare in Alameda, and also mentioned there will be a universal daycare measure on an upcoming ballot.

Vice President Wasko also reported on the 60th Anniversary United Nations Event. President Bonta stated he was at the first part of event. There was a lot of energy, drum demonstrations outside, most seats were filled, but it was a very long program. There was a lot of support and many performances, with 42 agencies involved.

Sister City Workgroup – Member Chen stated the Wuxi, China trip was changed to Spring 2006. He reported that Florence Fang went to Wuxi, and volunteered to carry items from Alameda Mayor Johnson to the Mayor of Wuxi. She received a key to the City of Wuxi on behalf of the Mayor. The workgroup will set up a meeting for presentation of the key to the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor, Councilmembers and Board members have been invited to dinner at the Consul-General's residence in SF. The date will be determined and invitations will go out to all members.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – There were no oral communications.

BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – Vice President Wasko reported that the Health Fair at Alameda Hospital went well and AAWG workgroup should participate every year. Attendance was about 2,000 people. Wasko suggested adding into the travel box a clipboard for workgroup and other Board activity sign-ups. Staff person Beaver reported that the Board was invited by the Chair of the City of Richmond Human Relations Commission to a four-hour retreat to discuss changes in their Human Relations ordinance. No one is available to attend, but staff will provide some background on the SSRHB.

ADJOURNMENT - President Bonta adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver, Secretary

CB:sb

G:SSHRB/Packets/2005/Oct2005/MinutesOct2705
F:SSHRB/Agendas & Minutes 2005